Clearance of new mining units from Environmental Angle

1603. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that all new mining units will be required to obtaind clearance for their projects in future from environmental angle, and if so, what are the guidelines laid down in this regard; and

(b) whether the existing units will also be required to introduce measures to ensure pollution free operations as far as possible; if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BHAJAN LAL): (a) All major mining projects are already required to obtain environmental clearance. Guidelines on aspects to be covered in the Environmental Management Plan are available with the mining Companies and concerned Ministries.

The rules framed under the recently amended Mines and Mineral (Regulation and Development) Act, 1957 provide for the preparation of detailed mining plans for all new projects which would cover the impact of mining operations on land, air, water, forest, etc.

(b) The existing units are required to introduce pollution control measures to conform to Section 7 of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986.

Cases filed against handloom reservation Policy

1604. SHRI ALADI ARUNA *alias* V. ARUNACHALAM: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of cases which have been filed in various High Courts and Supreme Court against the Handloom Reservation Policy of the Central Government and;

(b) what steps have been taken by his Ministry to expedite the matter to the satisfaction of handloom weavers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA): (a) According to present information there are 287 cases pending in 8 High Courts against the Handloom Reservation Policy of the Central Government. In the Supreme Court 7 Textile Mills of Ahmedabad had appealed against the interim Order of Gujarat High Court which was referred back to them by Supreme Court.

(b) Action has been initiated to contest the cases in various High Courts. Simultaneously Supreme Court has been moved by the Central Government to transfer all the pending cases to Supreme Court to enable quike disposal at one place.

Representation from recruiting agents' association of Gulf Countries

1605. SHRI ALADI ARUNA alias V. ARUNACHALAM: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry has received any representation from the recruiting agents' association of Gulf countries requesting for looking into their grievances; and

(b) if so, what measures have been taken by his Ministry for the redressal of their grievances?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) Government are not aware of any association of recruiting agents of Gulf countries and have in any case not received any representation from this or any other body of recruiting agents.

(b) Does not arise.